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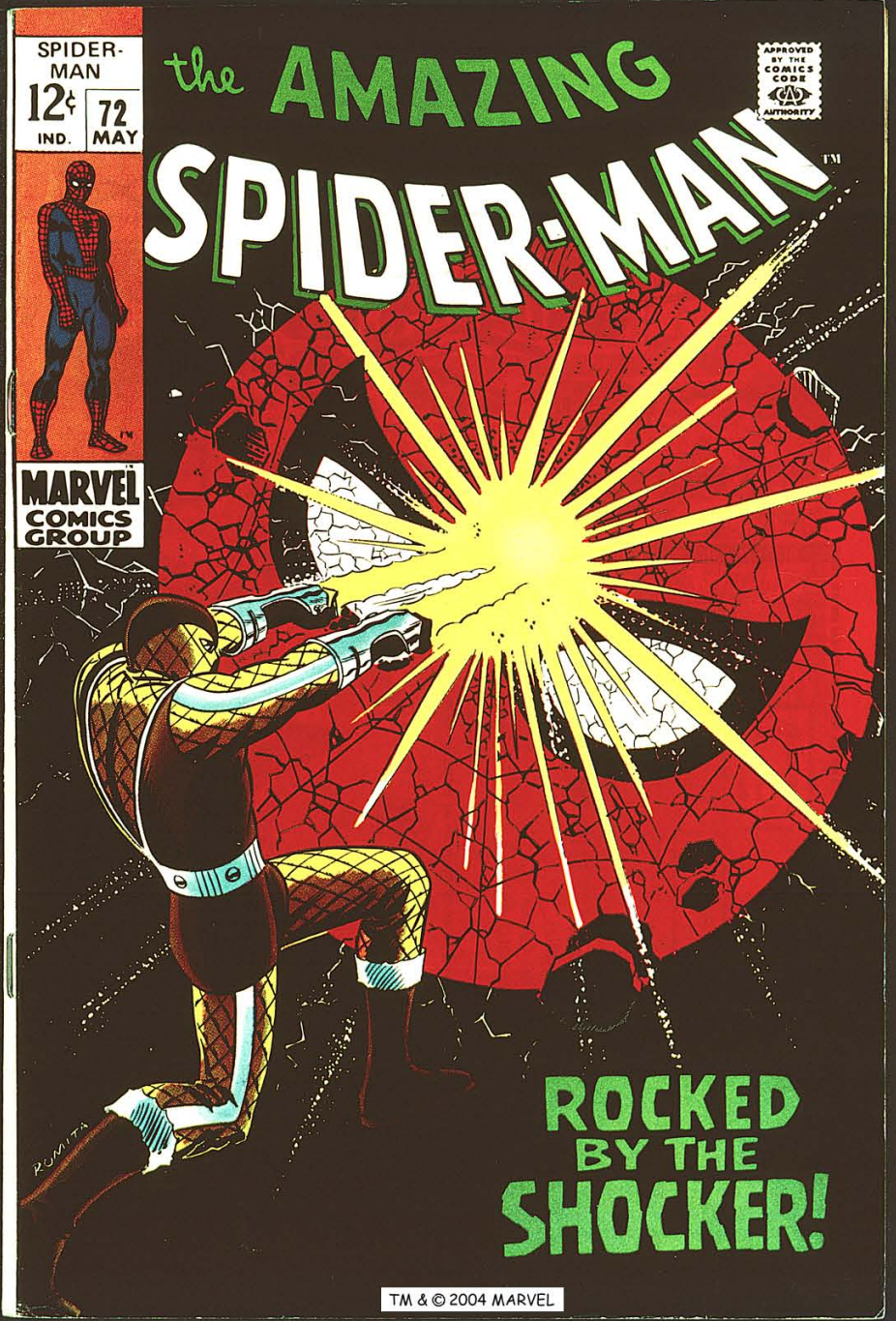

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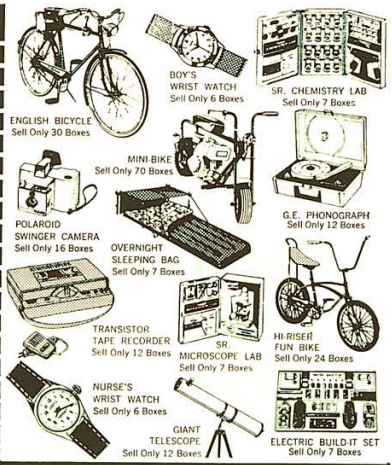

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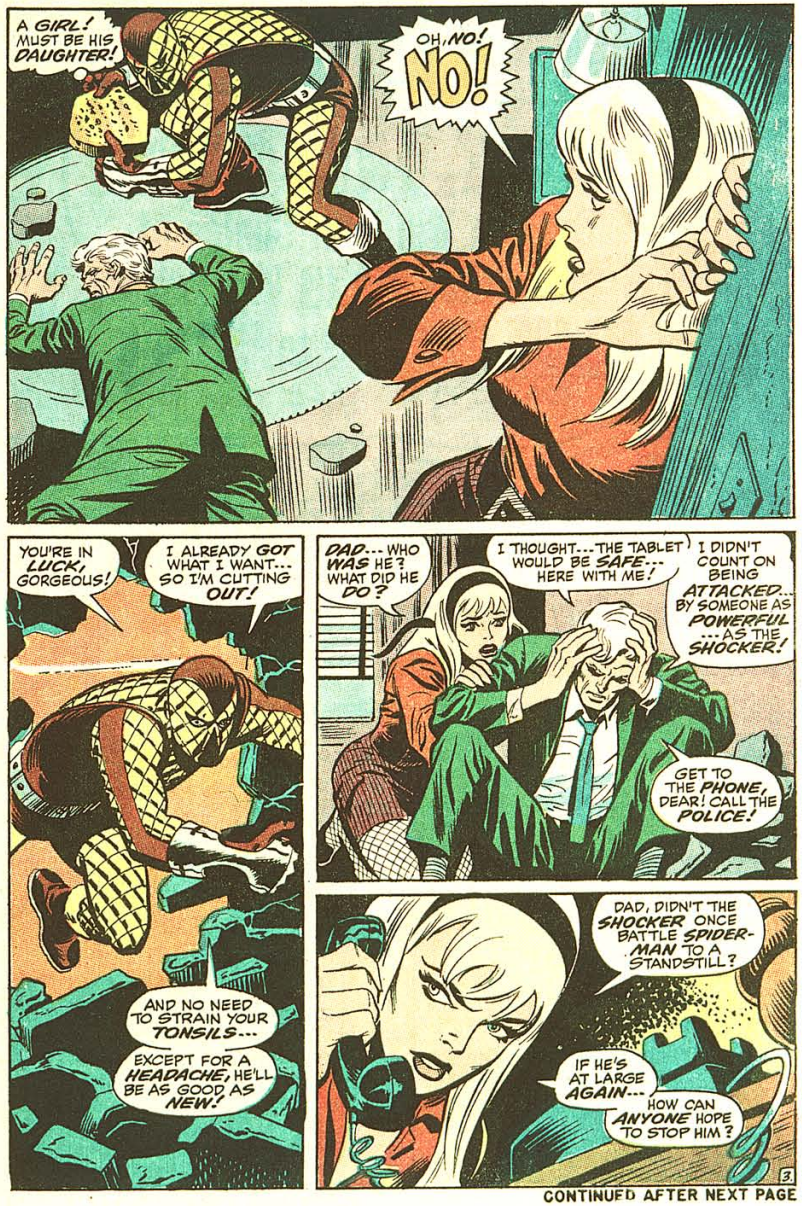

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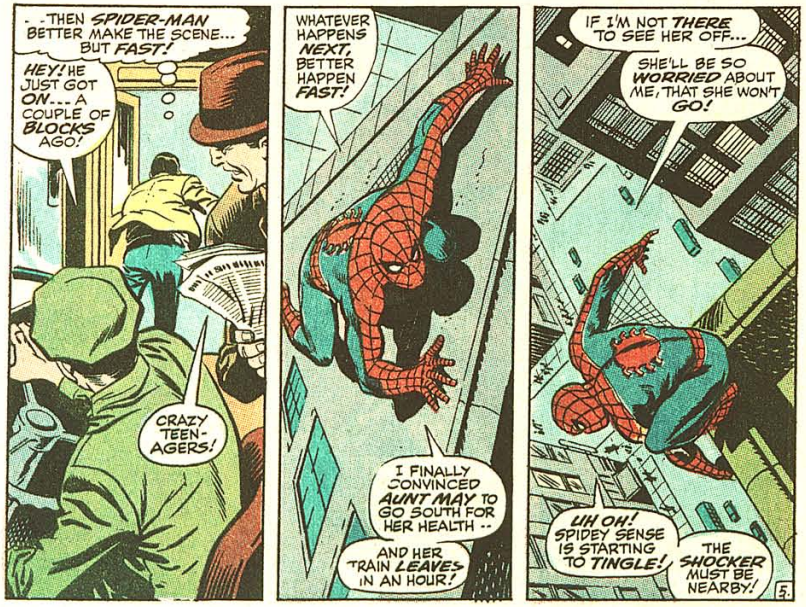

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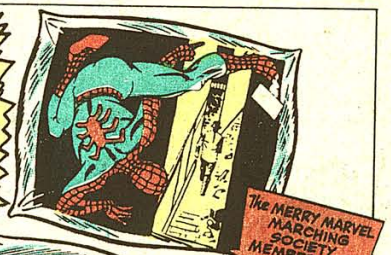

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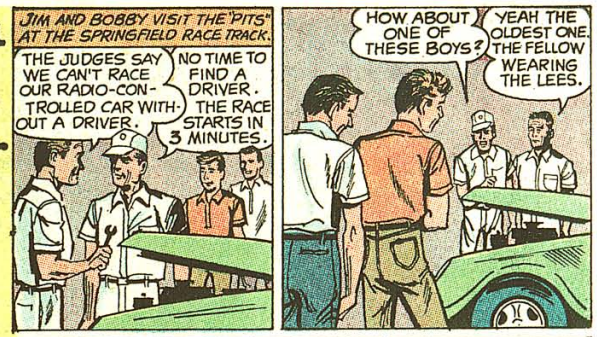

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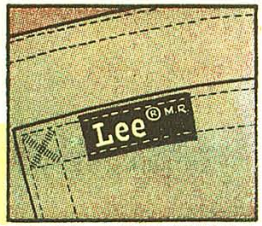

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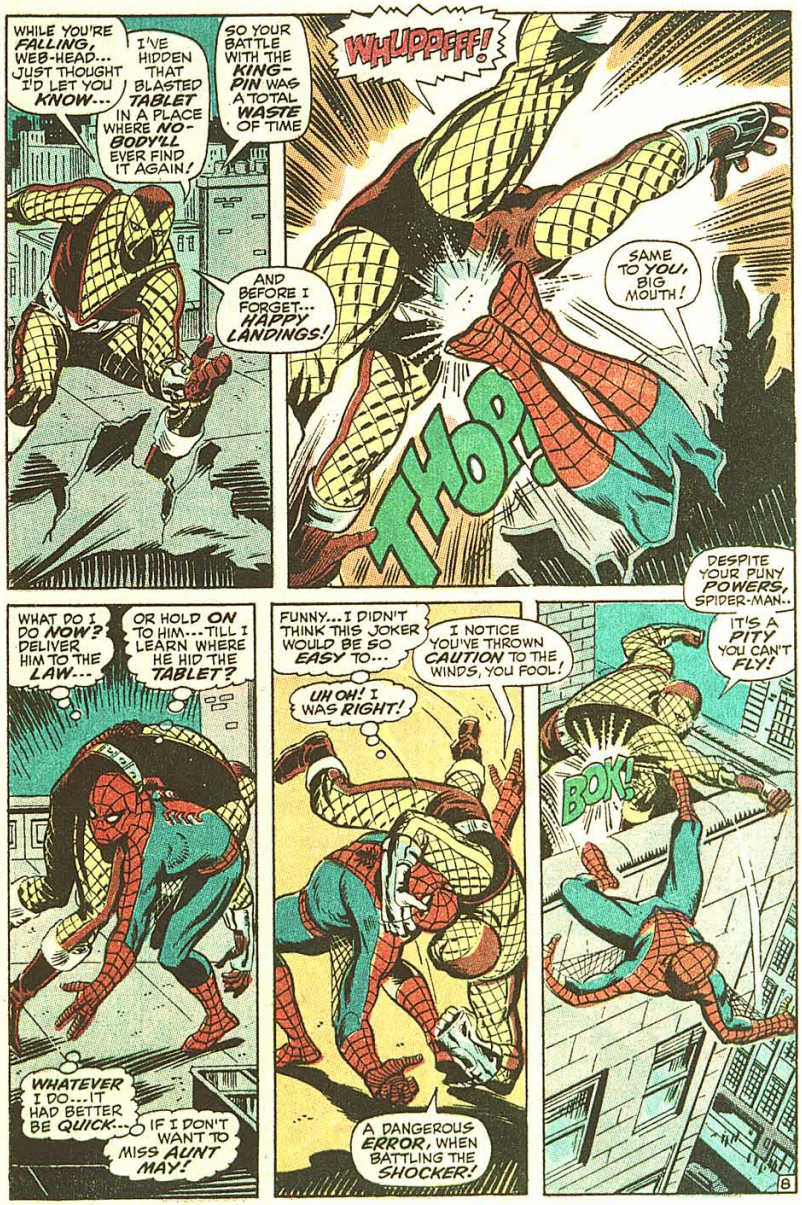

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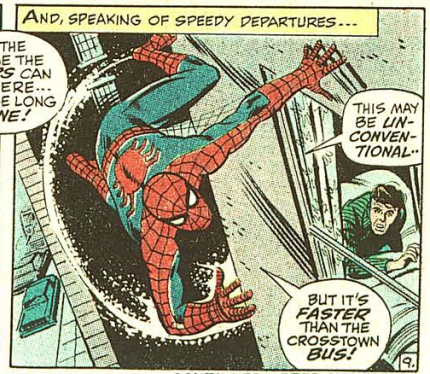

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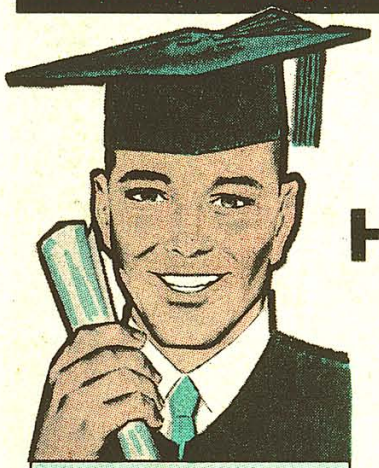

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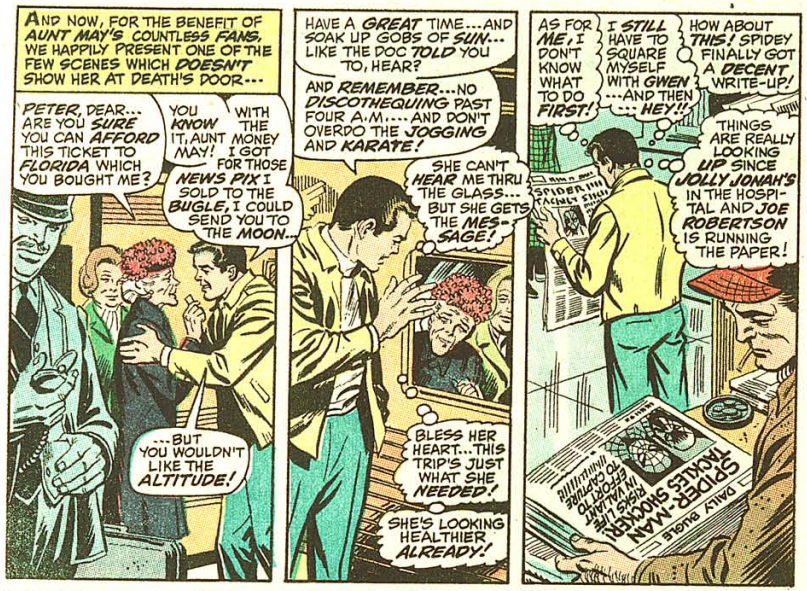

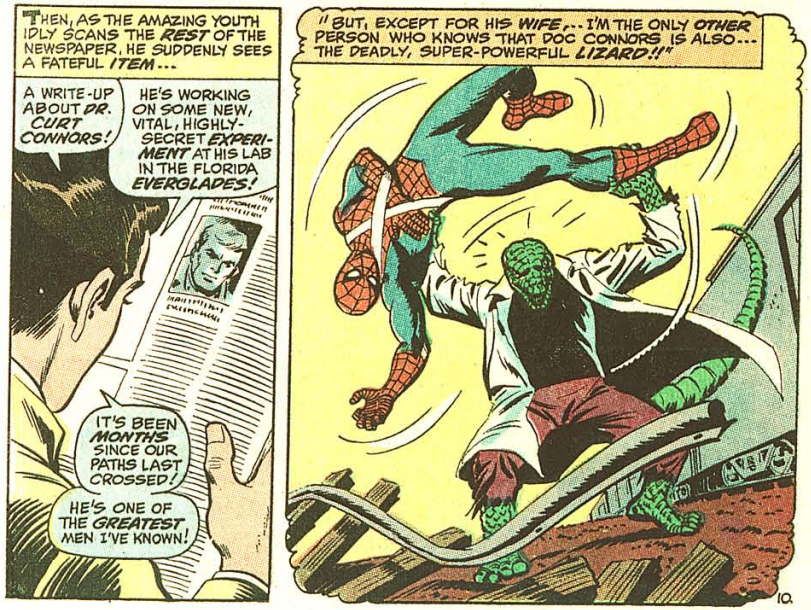

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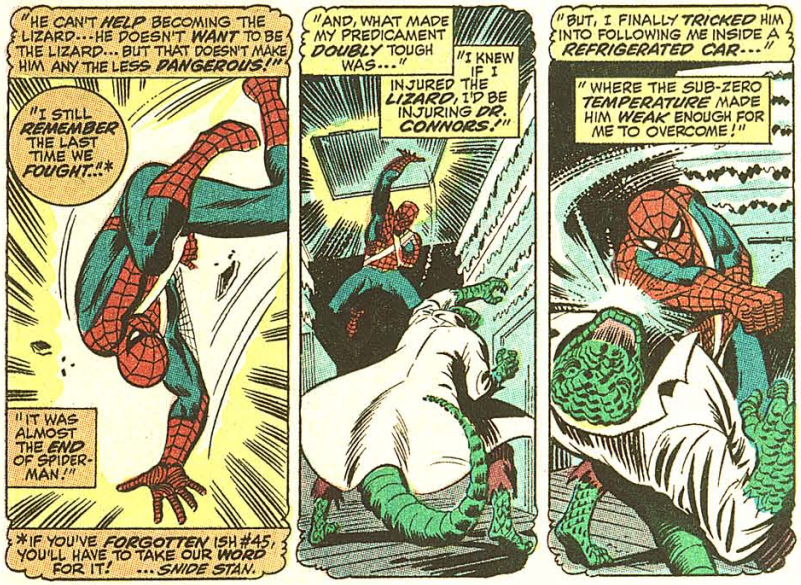

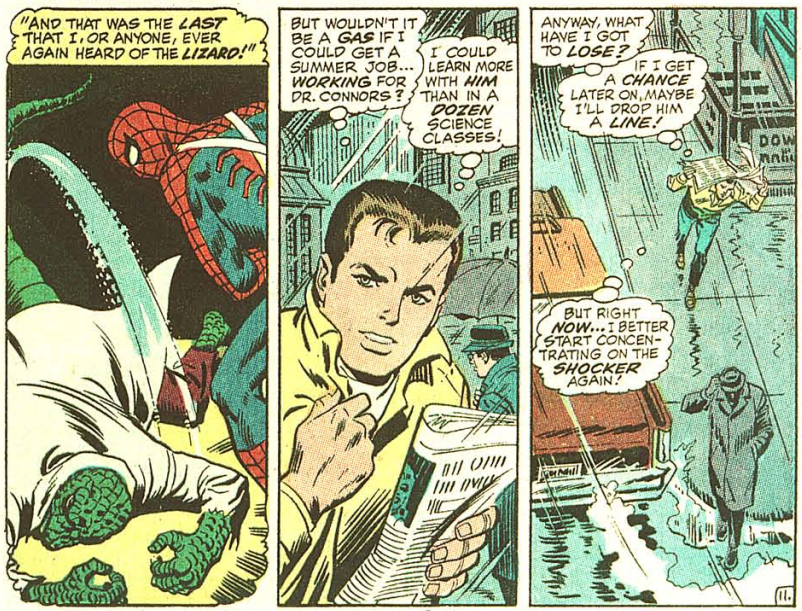

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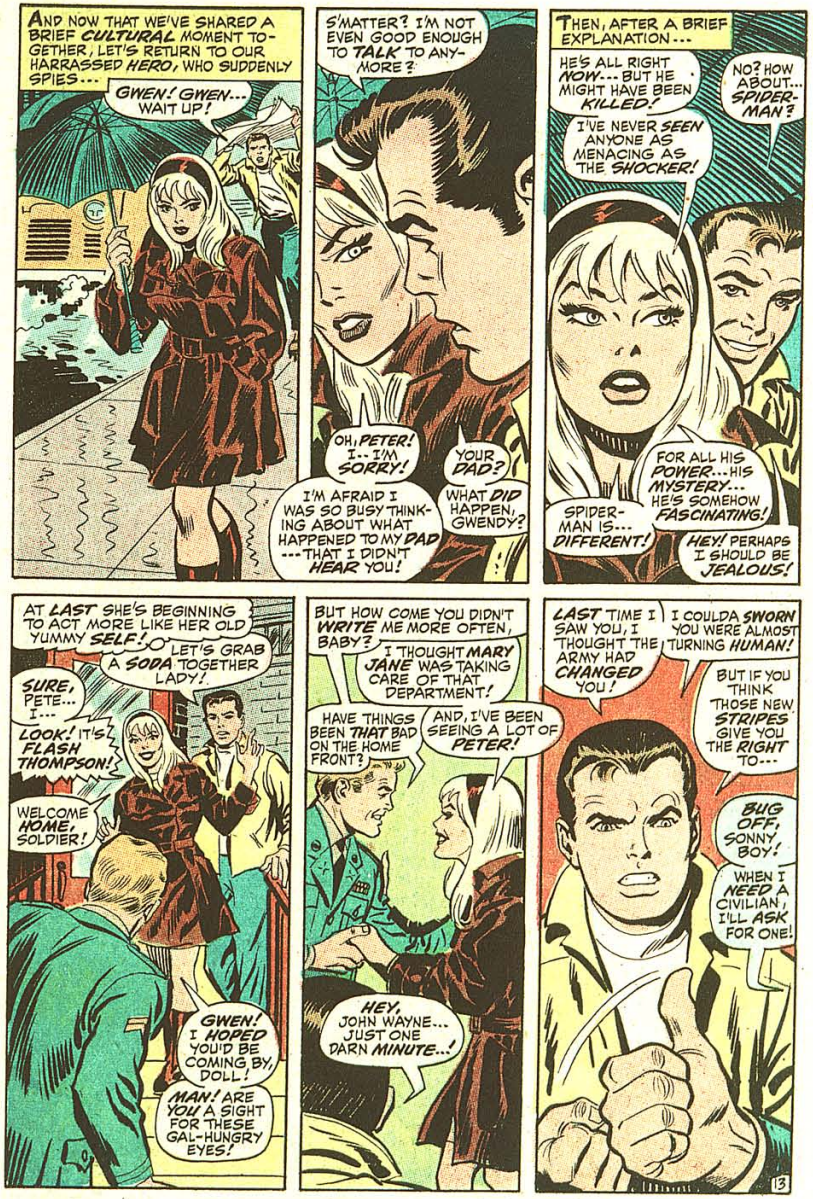

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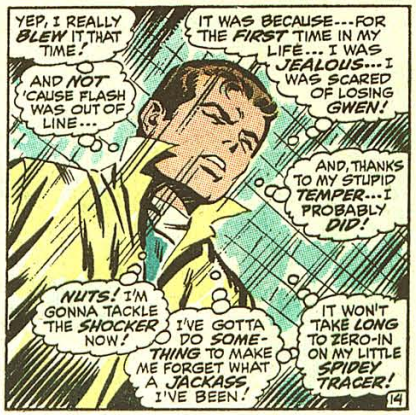

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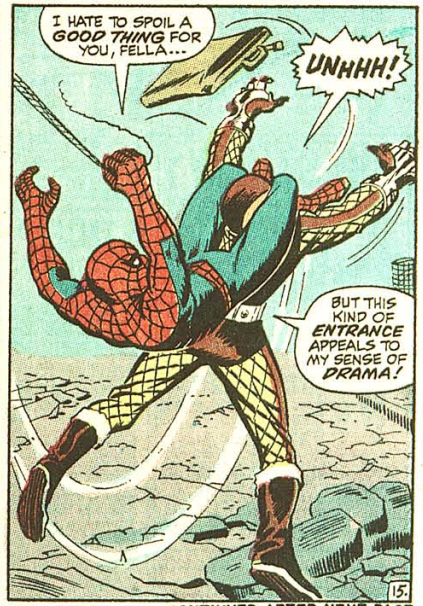

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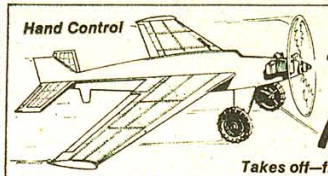

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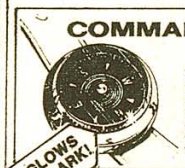

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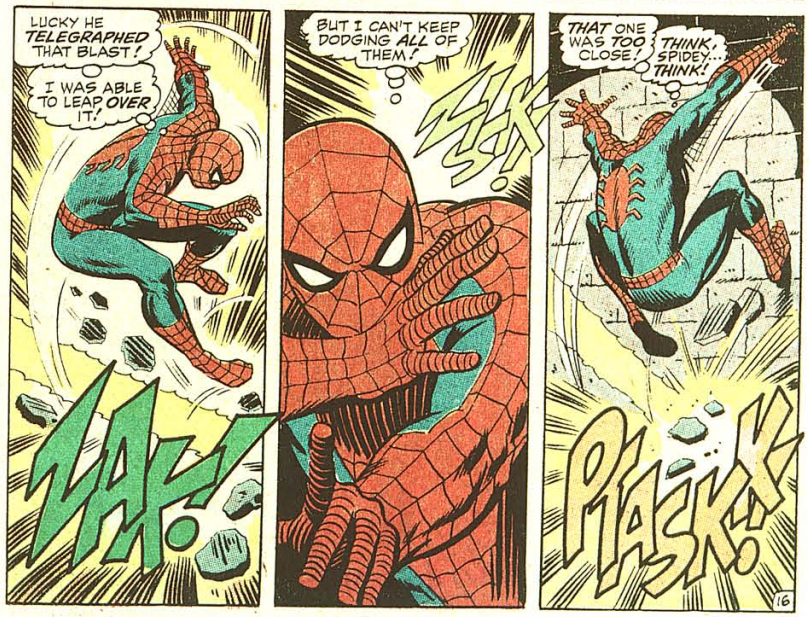

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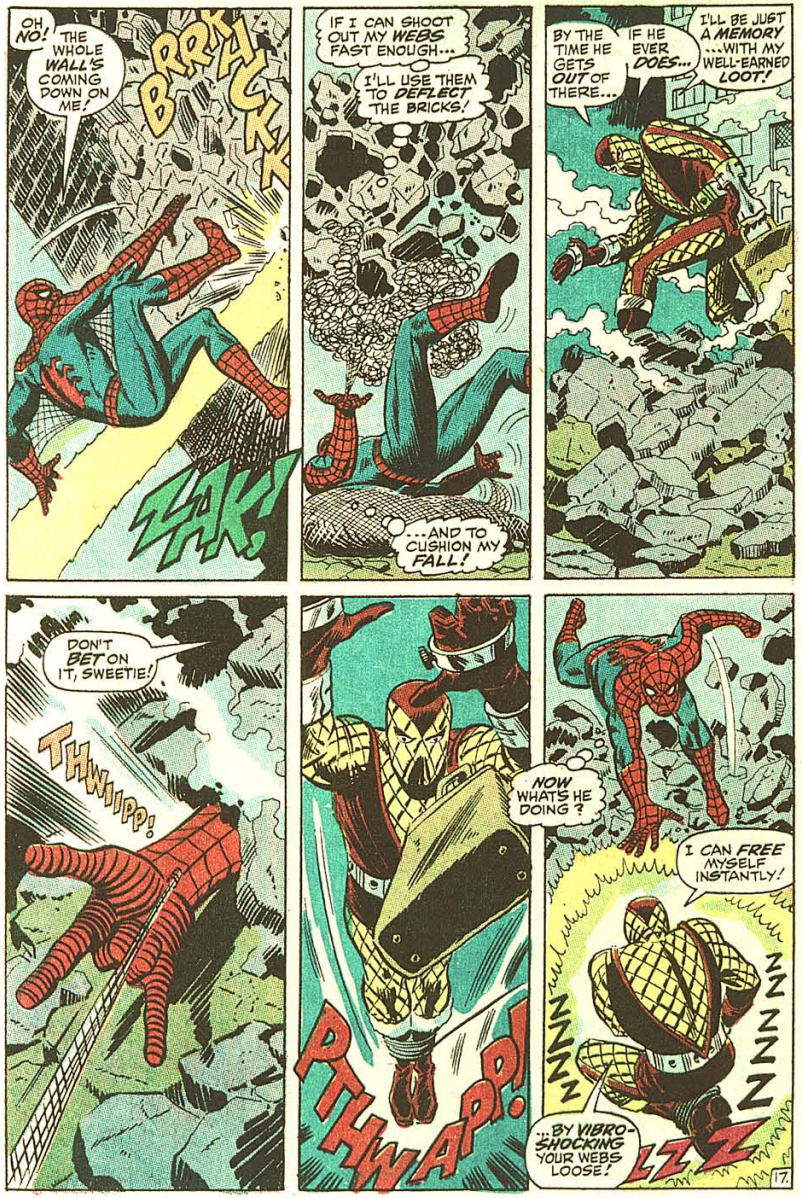

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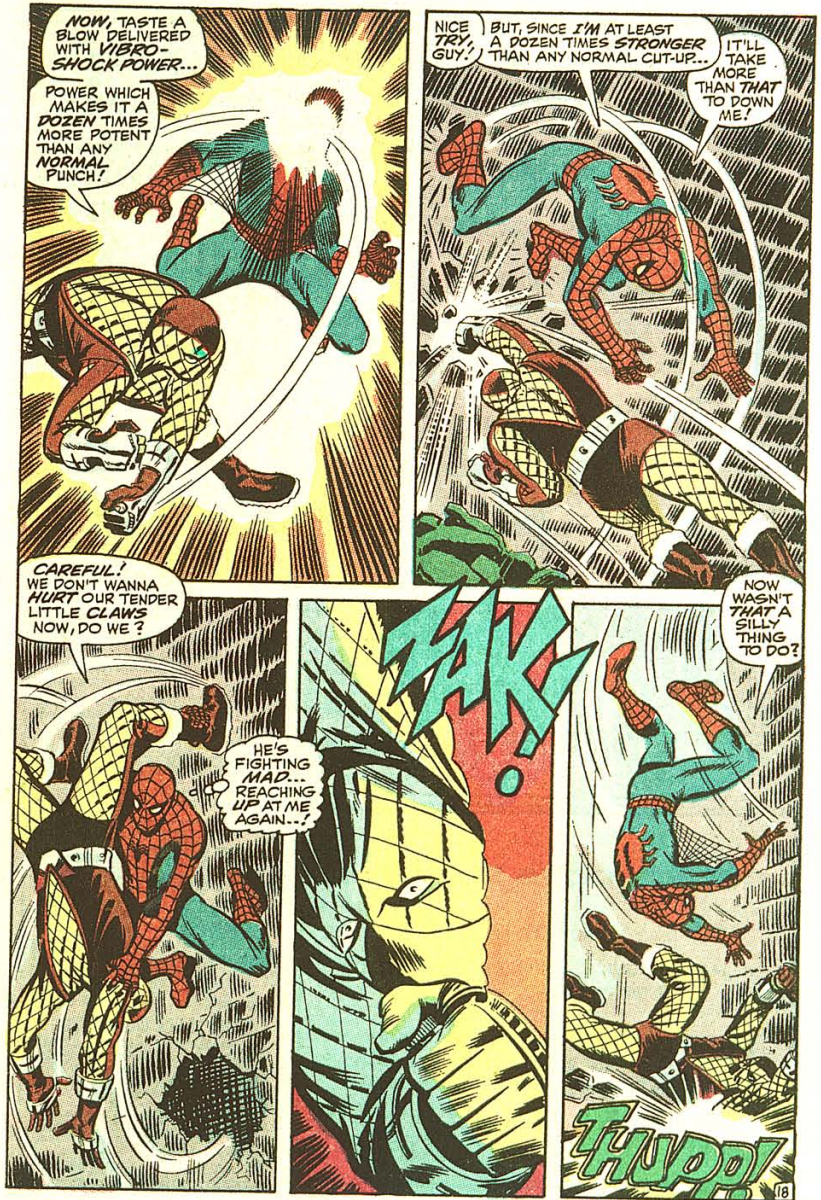

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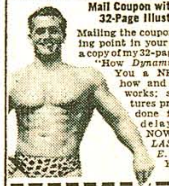

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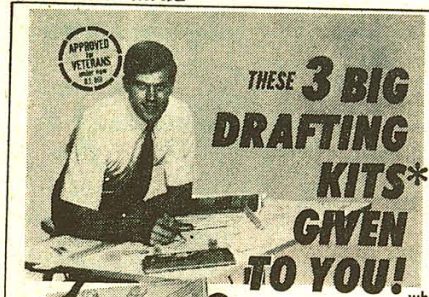

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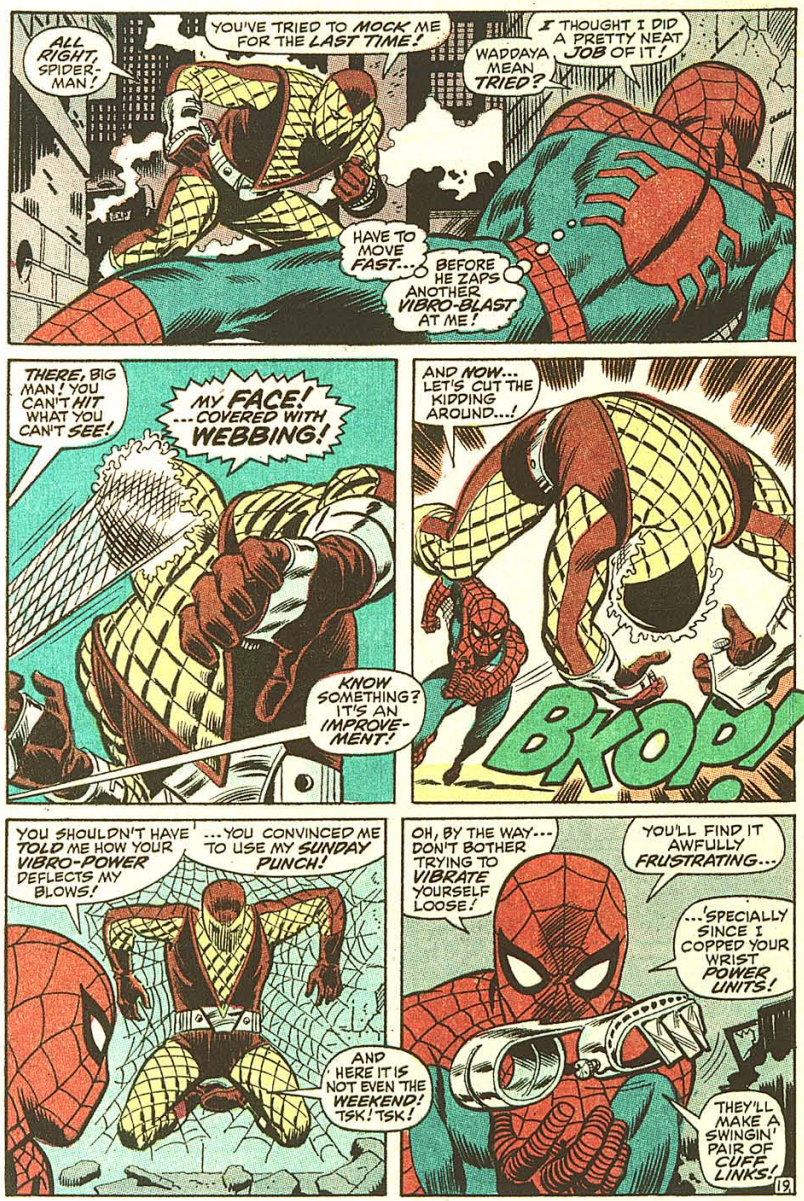

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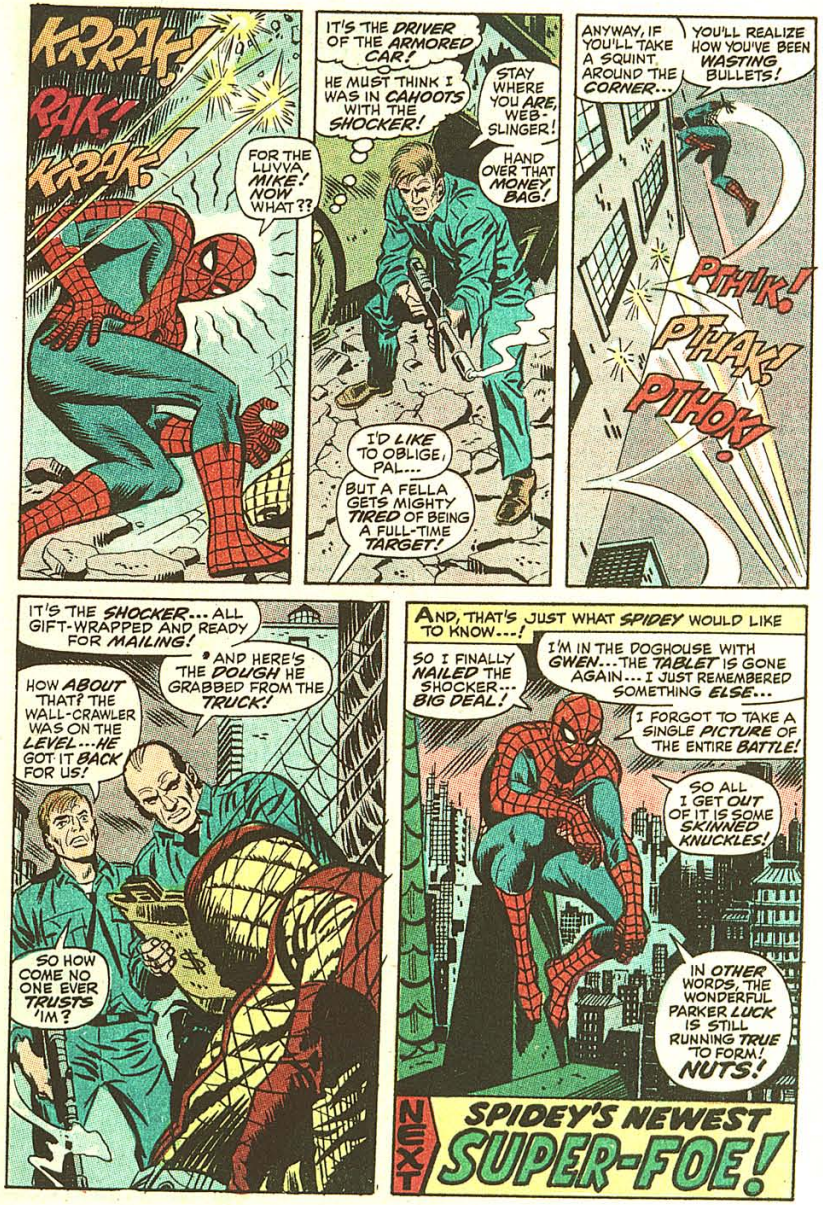

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MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

IRRELEVANT ITEMS OF LASTING INCONSEQUENCE!

ITEM! As these imperishable words are written, STAN THE MAN is being intrepidly interviewed for a zingy feature article about mighty Marvel in the February issue of EYE Magazine! (And if you dare to miss it — SHEESH!) But our leader better hurry, 'cause he's due to deliver a lilting lecture at the Columbia School of Journalism in a few hours — after which he'll be winging his way south to Duke University, to "conduct a symposium or colloquium, teach a class, or hold a major lecture" as the irresistible invitation so delightfully put it! The only thing that's worrying the rest of the Bullpen is — where does Smiley get the time to write more complete full-length epics per month than any other man in history?

ITEM! In case we haven't told you, disc jockeys around the country, such as WWKE's "SICK VIC" ALLEN in sunny Florida, have been requesting actual scripts of F.F., SPIDEY, DR. STRANGE, and other Marvel masterworks, to record and read verbatim over the air. Sounds like a real glitzy kick to us — so be listening for them, hear? The way things are going, they'll probably start popping up all over! (And of course we're kinda proud of the fact that these radio pros feel the quality of our dialogue is worthy of prime time radio broadcasting with virtually no editing or revisions!)

ITEM! While we're at it, here's another nice-nice! The prestigious publishing house of Geo. A. Pflaum has recently produced a fascinating new book, entitled EXPLORING THE FILM, by William Kuhns and Robert Stanley. What has that to do with Marvel, you ask? Well, there's an entire chapter devoted to pictorial angles — and it features twenty full pages of SPIDER-MAN battling the RHINO as an illustrative example! Incidentally, author BOB STANLEY visited with SMILEY a few days ago and revealed himself to be another merry Marvel madman — as well as one of the best-informed and truly with-it academicians we've met since Honest Irv!

ITEM: Speaking of interesting visitors — and we've had 'em all, from famous director FEDERICO FELLINI, to prize-winning playwright WILLIAM GIBSON, to the master satirist HARVEY KURTZMAN — we have a new one to add to our riotous roster. So, say hello to ZIKA BOGDANOVIC, film, TV, and jazz critic for NIN, the weekly magazine in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. He's visiting the U.S. under the exchange program sponsored by the Ford Foundation. Y'know, it's a funny thing — so many scholars are spending so much time studying Marvel, that if we had any sense, we'd head for the hills — before they seal us in pickle jars! PAX ET JUSTITIA!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

NOT BRAND ECHH #13: The Simple Surfer soars again — Dr. Deranged scores again — while feeble Forbush-Man snores again! And wait'll you dig Auntie May's diary! The biggest smash yet!

FANTASTIC FOUR #86: This is it! It looks as though DR. DOOM has finally won! And then — we promise you the year's biggest surprise ending! (No, Irving — it wasn't a dream!)

AVENGERS #63: "And in This Corner . . . Goliath!" But it's a fearsome, fighting-mad Goliath you've never seen before — as our awesome Avengers undergo the most unexpected change of all!

X-MEN #55: The secret of Cyclops' brother revealed at last! A battle to the finish with forces of the LIVING PHARAOH! Plus — the shocking origin of the Angel! Don't miss it!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Okay, it's time for our moment of truth! We know you were promised a new INHUMANS mag by this time — and we know you're still Inhuman-less! Some of you think we've just forgotten — others think we've changed our minds, and haven't bothered to clue you in. Still others think we didn't want the extra work. But, the straight scoop is — we started using a new printer some months back — till you've probably already noticed the vast improvement in the clarity and brilliance of our coloring) — but the printing changeover meant we were given a new set of deadline dates — dates which require our mags to be produced even faster than before! Hence, we once again were temporarily forced to abandon our plans for new titles until we could catch our breath. However, we're starting to get on schedule again, so maybe THIS will some day be known as The Year Of The Inhumans!

Honestly, we wish there were time for us to personally explain many of the things we do — things which are occasionally misunderstood or misinterpreted by you frantic ones. For example, we sometimes get angry letters, berating us for having taken a certain artist off a certain strip. Usually you, the reader, think the move was made because we simply wanted to make a change — whereas the actual reason may be totally different. Artists are often transferred at their own request, because they've grown bored with a strip — or because they feel they can't draw it as quickly as another strip — or because another artist is ill, or on vacation, and needs a replacement — or because we feel there is another strip which is more important for that artist to do — or the other strip may be less popular, and we feel that it will increase in popularity if that artist is given a chance at it. There are some artists who insist on a certain inker — and certain inkers who prefer special pencillers. Some artist/writer teams work better than others, and — in our never-ending effort to improve the quality of the mags you spend your hard-earned shekels on — we find ourselves continually changing, experimenting, and innovating— for, though we often fall on our trusting little faces, we want you to know we're in there TRYING every minute!

Excelsior!
Smiley

DAREDEVIL #51: Yep, we've got another wild-and-wooly new arch-fiend for DD to tangle with — and when it comes to action — this is for you!

THOR #163: Few are the earth-shattering villains strong enough to battle the Thunder God — but there is such a one — the merciless master of menace — the revenge-ridden PLUTO!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #113: So, Cap is dead, eh? Well then, how do you account for what happens now?? And would you have guessed the origin of MADAME HYDRA? It's sheer spectacle!

HULK #115: It looks like Old Super-Villains' Month here at Marvel — especially when the LEADER, truly the most dangerous of all, comes back to life — to trap the Hulk, at last!

IRON MAN #13: The maddened, monstrous CONTROLLER is still at large — and even ol' Shellhead seems helpless against him! And then — but, you'll wanna see for yourself, pilgrim!

SUB-MARINER #13: Stunned by the seeming death of Dorma — battered by forces that defy description — this is our awesome, agonized Atlantean at his battling best! A must!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #13: Mar-Vell is confronted with a choice . . . gain revenge on Yon-Rogg, or save Carol Danvers from the MAN-SLAYER — and wait'll you learn his decision!

SHIELD #12: The bombshell British artist writer team of Smith and Parkhouse has turned SHIELD against Fury in an electrifying saga you'll never forget!

DR. STRANGE #180: This one starts in Times Square — and ends up in the farthest reaches of Infinity — as our magical master takes on the legions of NIGHTMARE! And if he loses — a planet dies!

SGT. FURY #65: The most senses-shattering war saga ever — and the simple, shocking title says all you need to know . . . "Eric Koenig . . . TRAITOR!"

CAPT. SAVAGE #13: The hard-hitting Raiders on special assignment in Europe! A weirdo title like "Junk-Heap Juggernauts!" What else do you need to convince ya . . . this one's a blast!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #20: At last! The most requested new solo star of all — the one and only DR. DOOM! And talking about devilish foes — the fiendish Diablo returns! A collector's item!

MARVEL TALES #20: Who says three's a crowd? Nobody — not when that threesome is Spidey, Thor, and the blazing Human Torch! Another bargain-basement bombshell from Marvel!

MILLIE THE MODEL #170 — CHILI #1 — MAD ABOUT MILLIE #1 — what more can we say? They're fast, funny, and far-out! And, nutty as it seems, they're among Marvel's TOP-sellers!

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SILVER SURFER #5: The Stranger strikes! The Surfer walks the streets as a human! The Fantastic Four make a guest appearance! And that's only *part* of it!

COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #20: The fabulous F.F. — the ever-powerful Iron Man — and the dazzling Dr. Strange — in some of their greatest triumphs! Talk about bargains!

MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN #4: Rawhide Kid — Two-Gun Kid — and Kid Colt, Outlaw! Three names towering above the rest — and all yours in one pistol-packed mag!

RAWHIDE KID #69: And now . . . the Executioner! The most popular western hero of all — in his most suspenseful shoot-out ever! This one you gotta see!

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THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Stan and John,

I think #69 was cool, except I think you ought to get rid of the Kingpin. You're using him too much! Otherwise, you guys are doing great, especially when his thugs said that the Kingpin was scared only of his wife. That really got my curiosity up, and I can't wait to find out who she is and what she's like! 'Til then, hang loose, baby.

Eddie Christopher, 3217 Gravelbook Dr.
Richmond, Va. 23234

Dear Stan and John,

SPIDER-MAN #69 was very good. The plots and stories are getting better each month. I really liked the cover — it showed so much daring. The art is also getting better. But I don't like page 14, where the Kingpin is defeating Spidey. Even though he's only playing possum, I still don't like it. And then at the end, having Spidey become an actual menace is just going off the rope!!

Pratha Scullion, 1760 E. Columbia Ave.
College Park, Ga. 30337

Well now, simmer down, hero! Old Web-Head isn't getting stomped *that* badly. And as you say, he's only playing possum — or acting arachnid — or something like that. As for making our wall-crawlin' warrior a menace, well, half the fun of following his harrowing happenings is seeing the good name of Spider-Man/Peter Parker cleared from all guilt! And you'd still rather fight than switch, wouldn't ya?

Dear Stan and John,

Spidey's world is moving at blinding speed! Josh, the militant, has replaced Flash Thompson as the chief goader in Peter Parker's life (personifying him as "Whitey"). The adult figures that overreact, like J. Jonah Jameson or the irresponsible officer who drew his gun on the demonstrators, also help add to an atmosphere which Spidey summarizes (on page 12, #68) as "Everyone's too uptight." Right! Then, thank goodness, the Kingpin bursts onto the scene and puts us back into a Marvel comic situation that we can identify with. Kingpin is the best villain for Spidey in a long time since the Scorpion (who's been gone for a long time, guys). Also, I'd really like to suggest that you find another outside source for Peter's income. If nobody at the Bugle has grown suspicious of the fact that Parker seems to be the only one who can successfully photograph Spidey (as Foswell did), I'm sure it will only take another 40 issues or so. Robertson seems to be onto something, in fact.

C. C. Crill, 397 E. Villa
Pasadena, Calif. 91106

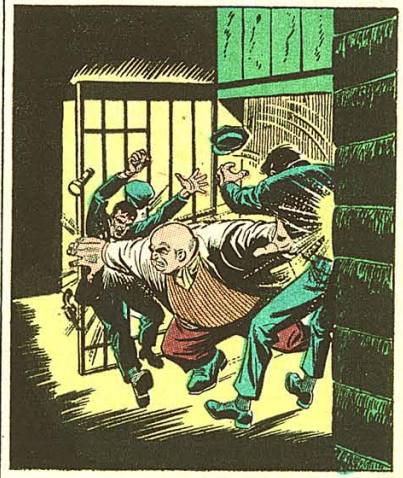
You want maybe Petey should go to work part-time as a non-union ceiling plasterer? Besides, C.C., there just aren't that many jobs crying for a college kid to work the graveyard shift on alternate Thursdays, on the villains' day off or as few shekels as the Daily Bugle shells out! We don't think they're gonna get noxiously nosy for many ishes yet to come!

Dear Stan and John,

I was so shook up about SPIDER-MAN #68 that I just had to write you. I'm glad to see that you're not using full and four-to-a-page scenes as much as you were in the last few issues. Let's see that improvement in your (or should I say our) issues of the F.F. also. Getting back to Spidey, who is the greatest character in the vast outstretches of Marveldom, I want to to tell you that your story was tops! It's great to see that Kingpin is back, but how's about some more of the greats from the past, like the Enforcers, Moltey, and the one-issue great, the Shocker. Oh well, you can't have everything. Keep up the good — I mean marvelous — work and so forWEBer more an avid Spideyofyldite bids adieu . . . 'nuff said!

Gerold Palma, Burnaby 3
British Columbia, Canada

Well, Ger, by the time you read this liltin' letter, you've already had your wish — a return appearance of the Shocker! Now, you doubting Thomases out there, take note. This is living, breathing proof that we do listen to our raucous readers and give 'em what they want! When enough of you believers ask for a return appearance, you get it! (Sorry, Irv, you've gotta be the one exception — the Code won't even let your character have a first run!)



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Dear Stan and John,

Recently you have been attacked for the seeming discrepancy between the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN and the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. These people have not researched the problem enough. By splitting the pages of the mags into groups and changing some of the "meanwhiles" to "laters" and "the next days" and inserting pages where the continuity is best suited, I have arrived at the following order of reading for a smooth story. Please print this as a public service.

AS-M #59, p. 1 — p. 8, pn. 1
SS-M #1, p. 1 — p. 53
AS-M #59, p. 8, pn. 2 — #62, p. 20
SM-M #2, p. 1 — p. 12, pn. 4
S-M KING #5
AS-M #63 — #64
SS-M #2, p. 12, pn. 5 — p. 17, pn. 1
AS-M #65 — #66, p. 11, pn. 3
SM-M #2, p. 17, pn. 2 — p. 20, pn. 3
AS-M #66, p. 11, pn. 4 — #67, p. 20
SS-M #2, p. 21 — p. 58

There you have it; a little confusing, but then so was figuring it out. In the KING SIZE SPIDER-MAN #5 you show the Red Skull in the year 1949, but he was in suspended animation at the time, so I suggest that he had been replaced by one of his underlings after his disappearance.

Brian Madigan, 106 Edward Pkwy.
Nedrow, N. Y. 13120

Okay, Brian, we tried it your way. And (ta-ta, ta-ta) we decided to award you one smoothly flowing, continuous no-prize . . . mainly for being the only frantic one this side of the bumblin' Bullpen to hold all seven books in his hands at once!

Dear Stan and John,

I think it's time poor old Aunt May had a season of good health. Assuming you don't plan to kill her off altogether, why not let her recover for a bunch of issues and give Spidey a new problem to keep things balanced? Really! She's a nice old lady, and it's sadistic to keep her so sick just for plot purposes.

Miriam Bobhoff, R.F.O., K.O.F. C.O.A.M.H.*
*Committee of One for Aunt May's Health
1564 A Waller St., San Francisco, Calif.

Smiley read over your letter and felt the greatest sympathy for your cause. Yes, he thought to himself, it *is* sadistic to keep such a martyred, brave, aging lady in anguish just for the sake of a comic mag plot. But then the smiling one's dividend check came in from his holdings in Get Well Cards, Incorporated. Let's see, *lumbago* is next on the list, isn't it? Salaam, pal.

Dear Stan and Jack,

If Spidey was bitten by an R. (R. will stand for "Radioactive") spider, why can't Subby be bitten by a R. fish, Thor by a R. hammer, Medusa by a R. wig, Iron Man hit by a R. piece of girder, the Thing hit by a R. rock, the Human Torch burned by a R. match, Mr. Fantastic shot by a R. rubber band, and Capt. Marvel bathed in the rays of a R. comet?

Wayne Foskey, 606 Blackshear R. Apt. E
Cordebe, Ga. 31015

There's only one you forgot, Wayne-brain! A bullpen stung by a R. FORBUSH BUG!!!! Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Wholesale Acceptance?

Dear Stan and John,

I was happy to see that the demonstration at E.S.U. wasn't a Communist plot as the John Birch Society would have done if it wrote the story. I thought this would happen since Mr. Lee writes "patriotic" stories. Now one more thing, how about having Peter Parker grow up and graduate from college? Why not? He graduated from high school. After this, then what? He could still be Spider-Man when he's 106 — and still be young — at heart. This would be an illustrated magazine first.

Charles Blackcrow, 1551 Georgetta Dr.
San Jose, Calif. 95125

It will be a sad day, indeed, when the word "patriotic" denotes a witch-hunting fervor to crush the crusade for the rights and opportunities of every man! All of us believers have to work together and tell the world that there are no clear-cut, fool-proof, 100% effective ways of labelling such events as we pictured on the campus as "Communist", "right-wing", or what-have-you! Maybe every party will have to give in a little to get a little — and maybe this isn't such a new solution after all, eh? You know we're not gonna welch on ya, Chuck. One of these days Petey's gonna earn that sheepskin! But after that — hard telling! Very few college placement bureaus would know what to do with a wise-guy who shows up at graduation with red webbed stockings sticking out from under his gown!

NEXT

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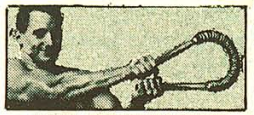

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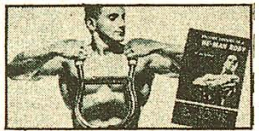

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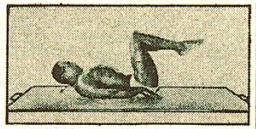

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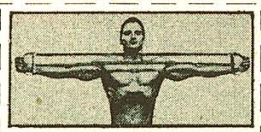

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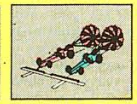

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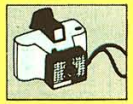

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